



Wellington Botanical Society

NEWSLETTER October 2003

Last Issue: June 2003

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Subscriptions for 2003/4

Annual subscriptions for the year ended 30 June 2004 are now due. A yellow subscription notice is enclosed for this year and any arrears due are noted. Where the Society's records (to 12 September 2003) show you have already paid, there will be no yellow subscription notice with your newsletter.

Subscriptions for the 2003/4 year are:

Ordinary \$32; **Joint** \$42; **Country** \$26; **Student** \$20.

All are reducible by \$5 if paid by 30 November 2003.

Subscriptions, set at the August AGM, recognise that the Society has been living a little beyond its income in recent years. In part this is because of the number of members in arrears with their subscriptions. If this is you, please pay promptly.

In November the subscription list will be reviewed and the committee will consider removal of those members who are one or more years in arrears.

BotSoc Bulletins

Would you like to build up your library of our "flagship" publication? We are selling bundles of five consecutive back issues of the Bulletin at our evening meetings for the bargain price of \$5! Add to your knowledge of native plants, while boosting BotSoc's finances.

WBS Bulletin

We welcome articles for consideration for the next issue of the Bulletin. Members with interesting observations on field trips, and memories of other special occasions, are invited to submit articles.

Please send your article ASAP to John Sawyer, Editor, WBS Bulletin, Department of Conservation, PO Box 5086, Wellington. Ph 04 472 5821, fax 04 499 0077, e-mail: jsawyer@doc.govt.nz

Wellington Botanical Society

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Chris Horne, 28 Kaihuia St, Northland, WN 5. Ph/fax 475 7025

Annual Subscription: ordinary \$32; joint \$42, country \$26; student \$20.

Send your subscription to Treasurer, WBS, PO Box 10-412, WN.

New subscribers: Please complete form at the back of this newsletter.

Articles for web site

We welcome articles for consideration for inclusion on our web site: www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz

Please send your article to pennyc@clear.net.nz,

OR post it to Wellington Botanical Society, PO Box 10 412, Wellington, attention: Penny Currier and Julia White;

OR fax it to Barbara Mitcalfe 04 475 7149.

Manawa Karioi Society Revegetation Programme WORK BEES

10.00 am every Wednesday
and 2nd Sunday each month.

Lunch provided.

*Potted locally-sourced native
seedlings welcome. Thank you.*

Contact:

Morgan Cox ph 383 5168 or Sally
Bowman ph 934 7041

Meetings

BotSoc meetings are usually held at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of each month at Victoria University, W'gton – Lecture Theatre 101, ground floor, Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade. Enter building about 20 m down Kelburn Pde from pedestrian overbridge.

Field trips

Day trips to locations in the Wellington region are usually held on the first Saturday of each month.

Extended excursions are usually held at New Year, first weekend in February and Easter.

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE – 10 November 2003

ATTENDING FIELD TRIPS AND MEETINGS

Ideas please

We welcome your ideas about:

- places to visit on field trips
- topics for evening meetings
- speakers at evening meetings.

Please send ideas to our secretary, Barbara Clark, PO Box 10-412, Wellington 6036, ph 233 8202.

Field trips

If you intend to join a trip, **PLEASE** phone the leader at least **TWO DAYS** beforehand. This will enable him/her to arrange for a copy of the species list for you, and to let you know of any changes and/or particular requirements. If you cannot ring so far in advance, you are still welcome to join on the day.

Clothing for field trips

Sun hat, balaclava¹ or hat¹, waterproof/windproof parka, long-sleeved cotton shirt, singlet¹, bushshirt¹, 1 or 2 jerseys¹, waterproof/windproof overtrousers, nylon shorts, longjohns¹, longs¹, underclothes, swimming togs, 4pr socks¹, hut shoes, boots, gaiters, mittens¹, handkerchief.

Day trip gear

First aid kit, compass², map², insect repellent, whistle, matches in waterproof container, water purification tablets, water bottle, thermos, pocket knife, camera², binoculars², hand lens², note book², pen and pencil², sunblock, sunglasses, large plastic survival bag to line pack.

Overnight trip gear and food

As well as the day trip gear listed above, bring torch, spare bulb and batteries, candle, mug, plate, knife, fork, spoon, small towel, soap, tooth brush, tent, fly, poles and pegs, groundsheet, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, liner and stuff bag. Bring bread, butter/margarine, biscuits, fresh fruit and scroggin. SCROGGIN = Sultanas, Chocolate or Carob, Raisins, Orange peel, Glucose³, Ginger, Including Nuts.

¹ = wool, polypropylene or polarfleece as applicable.

² Optional

³ Dried apricots are recommended instead of glucose but would spoil the acronym!!

BotSoc equipment

In addition to the gas stoves, billies, kitchen utensils, flies etc., used on our long field trips, we have the following for use on any field trip:

- a first aid kit. NOTE: anti-histamines NOT included, because of short shelf-life
- ten NZMS 260 Sheet R27, Pt.Q27 maps
- ten Silva Type 3 compasses

If you are leading a BotSoc trip, and would like to take these items, please ring Chris Horne ph 04 475 7025, or Barbara Mitcalfe ph 04 475 7149.

Fitness and experience

Our field trips vary considerably in the level of fitness and tramping experience required. Although our main focus is botanical, our programme sometimes offers trips which, in the pursuit of our botanical aims, are more strenuous than others. Although leaders take care to minimise risks, everyone participates at their own risk. If you have any questions about whether you are fit enough for a particular trip, please contact the leader well beforehand.

Reimbursement of drivers

If you travel on a trip in someone else's vehicle, please pay your share of the running costs to your driver. If a trip on the inter-island ferry is involved, please pay your driver your share of the ferry fare.

Meetings

Public transport to meetings

You may find the following bus services useful. They stop on Kelburn Parade, about 50 m from Lecture Theatre M101 in the Murphy Building, Victoria University:

TO MEETINGS

No. 23 Mairangi–6.30 pm from Houghton Bay, 6.40 Zoo, 6.50 Courtenay Place, 6.57 Pastoral House, 7.02 University.

No. 23 Mairangi–6.55 pm from Southgate, 7.05 Hospital, 7.15 Courtenay Place, 7.22 Pastoral House, 7.27 University.

No. 22 Southgate–6.55 pm from Mairangi, 7.10 University.

No. 23 Houghton Bay–7.25 pm from Mairangi, 7.40 University.

No. 17 Railway Station – 6.35 pm from Karori Park, 6.52 University.

Cable Car at 00, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 min past each hour from Lambton Quay terminus. Alight at Salamanca Station.

FROM MEETINGS

No. 23 Southgate – 9.10 from University.

No. 23 Southgate – 10.10 from University.

Cable Car at approx. 01, 11, 21, 31, 41, 51 minutes past each hour from Salamanca Station. Last service 10.01 p.m.

For further information ring Ridewell Enquiry Service 801-7000.

Help the Editor

Compiling this newsletter takes several days. If you can help by word-processing your own material and sending it on disk, preferably in Microsoft Word, it would be much appreciated.

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING MEETINGS: JULY–DECEMBER 2003

The following programme IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. If you wish to go on a field trip, PLEASE help with planning by giving the leader 2 days' notice before a day trip, MORE notice before weekend trips, and SEVERAL WEEKS' notice before the New Year's trip.

Saturday 18 October : Field trip EXTRA FIELD TRIP

Te Marua workbee

BotSoc has been committed since 1989 to do weed control and revegetation work in this important matai\totara\maire remnant in Kaitoke Regional Park. Our biennial workbees must continue so that we keep ahead of reinvasion by weeds. Bring: gloves and weeding tools. Meet: Upper Hutt Station carpark at 9 am, or Te Marua Bush at 9.30 am (250m north of Te Marua Store and 50m off SH2 along the road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park). Catch 8.05 am train on Hutt line from Wellington Station. Maps R26 and Upper Hutt street map. Co-leaders: Glennis Shepperd 526 7450; Sue Millar 526 7440.

Monday 20 October: Evening meeting Out of sight and out of mind - our disappearing indigenous freshwater plant communities

Speaker: Vicky Froude, principal for Pacific Eco-Logic, an ecological consultancy company working in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. Few NZers would recognise a lake indigenous freshwater plant community and so there is little recognition of how severely these communities have been damaged by declines in water quality and increases in alien biota. This talk will outline what is happening to NZ lake, submerged plant communities and describe the development of a new tool - LakeSPI (Lake Submerged Plant Index) – designed to quickly measure changes in lake ecological condition.

Saturday 1 November: Field trip

Carey Gully, Owhiro Bay Catchment

Botanise regenerating, coastal forest and extensive manuka shrublands in this steep-sided valley which WCC Southern Landfill is expected to eventually to fill to the 260m contour. See the unnamed Cook Strait endemic '*Hoheria Tararua*,' etc. Boots essential for this steep, off-track, all-day tramp. Meet: Brooklyn wind turbine carpark, Hawkins Hill Road, 9am.

Co-leaders: Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149, Chris Horne 475 7025.

Monday 17 November: Evening meeting

1. Science Fair winners' presentation 2. Onslow College Arboretum presentation

Presentation 1: **Daniel Rogerson and Analese Bolger**, recipients of BotSoc's Award at the Wellington Secondary Schools' Science Fair.

Presentation 2: **Deidre Burke**, garden designer, plans and work in progress for the development of an Arboretum at Onslow College. Suggestions and questions are sought from BotSoc members for this ambitious venture worked on by members of the community and the College.

Saturday/Sunday 6-7 December: Field trip

'Beuley' - Maungapakeha Taipo

Explore Len and Chrissy French's 41 ha of covenanted, regenerating bush 35 km from Masterton. See *Doodia australis* (fern) uncommon in Wairarapa. Co-leaders: **Aidan Bichan**, new QE II rep (Saturday only), **Geoff and Jenny Doring**, Wairarapa, 021 619 599. Wellington contact **Sunita Singh** 387 9955 for transport offers or queries. Accommodation: 8 beds in shearers' quarters, and camping; no charge. Pot luck dinner. Meet 9.30am, Moore Wilson's car park, Dixon Street, Masterton.

New Year's Field trip Wednesday 31 December 2003 - Sunday 11 January 2004

West Coast and Murchison

31 Dec - 6 Jan: Kokiri Lodge, 8 km east of Stillwater, near Greymouth.

6 Jan - 11 Jan: Matakia Lodge, Tutaki Valley, 33km east of Murchison.

Botanise West Coast forests, Nelson Lakes National Park, and Lake Matiri/Thousand Acre Plateau. Bring bread, butter/marg, biscuits, fresh fruit and scroggin. See page 2 of newsletter. Make your ferry bookings **promptly** with Interislander or Strait Shipping. Registration form attached to this newsletter. Please make it easier for **Sheelagh and Gordon Leary**, the food organisers, ph: 527 7380, by completing the enclosed registration form and sending your deposit as soon as possible.

**Help raise funds for BotSoc's Jubilee Award Fund –
bring named seedlings/cuttings for sale at each evening meeting**

Saturday 24 January: Field trip**Otari-Wilton's Bush off track**

Botanise 'Bledisloe Creek' and some of Dr Cockayne's plantings near Flax Clearing. See planted mistletoe, large pukatea, recently-found wharangi, and numerous fern species. Boots essential. Meet 8.45am at IZARD Park, Wilton Road, opposite Norwich Street. Catch no 23 Mairangi bus 8am from Houghton Bay, 8.20am from Courtenay Place. Alight at terminus.

Co-leaders **Chris Horne** 475 7025, **Barbara Mitcalfe** 475 7149.

Sat\Sun 14-15 February: Field trip**Corner Creek, Wharekauhau Stream or Mukamuka beach**

Help search for *Dactylanthus taylorii* in Corner Creek and compile the first survey of either the Mukamuka area beach or the upper Wharekauhau Stream at Ocean Beach, Palliser Bay, South Wairarapa - depending on the weather. Accommodation at Sunita's bach: 4 bunks, 1 dbl floor mattress space, 1 bed-settee and 1 tent site.

Unlimited tent sites in sheltered camping area three minutes away; use bach facilities. Pot luck dinner.

Co-leaders: **Sunita Singh** and **Gavin Dench** 04 387 9955.

Monday 16 February: Evening meeting**Fuchsia in the Tararuas**

Steve Urlich, Forest Ecologist with the Department of Conservation, has been monitoring fuchsia/*Fuchsia excorticata* in the Tararua Range over the past 10 years as part of a possum control programme in place since 1994. In this talk he presents an analysis of possum impacts on fuchsia, and how successful possum control has been.

Saturday 6 March: Field trip**Orongorongo Station, Lower Coast Rd, Wainuiomata**

Botanise coastal shrubland with *Discaria toumatou*, *Muehlenbeckia astonii*, *Korthalsella lindsayi*, *Ileostylus micranthus* and much more. Bring gloves to weed *matagouri*. Meet 9am at carpark, east side Woburn railway station. Catch 8.25 am train from Wellington or 8.30 am train from Upper Hutt. Map R27, Wellington.

Leader: **Chris Hopkins** 564 3980.

Monday 15 March: Evening meeting**Recent Wairarapa happenings**

Tony Silbery, Department of Conservation, Wairarapa will bring us up to date with everything: from new species in the Tararuas, rare species in the east, an exciting find in the north, and kokako on Mt. Bruce.

Friday 9 April – 11 April (Easter): Field trip**Mangaweka area**

(Option to Tuesday 13 April) Visit Titirangi Reserve in the Kawhatau Valley, Paengaroa Reserve near Taihape. Weather permitting, climb to Rangiwahia Hut and/or Mt Colenso. Stay at the comfortable Kawhatau Outdoor Education Centre. Bunk rooms \$10.00 per night plus share of food costs.

Leader: **Rodney Lewington** (04) 475 3145.

Monday 19 April: Evening meeting**Offshore Islands of New Zealand**

Carol West, Conservancy Advisory Scientist for Southland Conservancy, Dept of Conservation, will talk about natural history, issues and management relating to a range of outlying, offshore and inshore islands from the subtropical to the subantarctic. The talk will be illustrated with slides.

Saturday 1 May: Field trip**Te Harakeke wetland, Waikanae**

Botanise one of the largest wetlands on the Kapiti Coast. View open water and 43 ha of flax; also cabbage trees, kahikatea, pukatea and some podocarps. Gumboots essential. Meet: 32 Park Avenue, off Te Moana Road, 10am.

Leader: **Tim Park**, 472 6626, deputy leader **Barbara Mitcalfe** 475 7149.

Monday 17 May: Evening meeting**Members' evening**

Please come and help make this an interesting evening. Share slides or photographs of recent trips. Bring prized plants to show. Brief botanical readings welcome.

Colin Ogle honoured

We are delighted that Colin Ogle has been awarded the New Zealand Botanical Society's Allan Mere Award 2003. Colin was nominated by Peter de Lange and David Norton, with supporting letters from Peter Heenan, Patrick Brownsey, Wellington Botanical Society, Audrey Eagle and Shannel Courtney.

Peter and David's letter nominating Colin appears in *NZ Botanical Society Newsletter*, No.73, September 2003. Colin,

a protégé of the late Tony Druce, has had a strong influence on the development of the botanical skills of the people he met in the former Wildlife Service, in the Department of Conservation from which he retired in 2001, in Wellington Botanical Society, and in Wanganui Botanical Society. Colin's contribution to the knowledge of NZ botany has been, and continues to be, of the highest standard.

BotSoc Committee

EVENTS

1. **Weedbusters.** Launch by Hon Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation, 14 October. The formation of regional **Weedbuster** groups will follow – watch this space! Contact Amber Bill, National Weedbusters Coordinator, Department of Conservation, PBag 4715, CH. Ph 03 371 3720, e-mail: abill@doc.govt.nz
2. **Botanical drawings of Nancy Adams.** To 2 November. Mahara Gallery, 20 Mahara Place, Waikanae. 10–4 Mon–Sat; 1–4 Sun.
3. **NZ Ecological Restoration Network National Skills Training Conference.** 8–9 November. Field training 8/11; Turnbull House, Bowen St, Wellington 9/11. Information and bookings: Jock Fleming, 149 Wilton Rd, Wellington 5. Ph 04 977 8948. E-mail: jockfleming@paradise.net.nz
4. **Percy Scenic Reserve Open Day.** Sunday 9 November. Guided tours at 11am, 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm. See AP Druce alpine collection, and other collections normally closed to the public. Walk the tracks through attractive native bush and picnic areas, and visit the 20 metre waterfall. For more information, ring the curator, Jill Broom ph 570 6505.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. **Vegetation monitoring on Moutohora (Whale Island) 1990–2002 using photopoints.** WB Shaw, DS Gosling, L Canham 2003. *DOC Science Internal Series 126*. 57p.
 - 1b. **Weed awareness in NZ.** SM Timmins, K Blood. 2003. *DOC Science Internal Series 125*. 16p.
 - 1c. **A new species of *Coprosma* (Rubiaceae) from the South Island, NZ.** DA Norton, PJ de Lange 2003. *NZ Journal of Botany 41*:223–231.
 - 1d. **Assessing the benefits for conservation of volunteer involvement in conservation activities.** K Bell 2003. *Science for Conservation 223*. 56p.
 - 1e. **Geographic variation in morphology and flavonoid chemistry in *Hebe pubescens* and *H. bollonsii* (Scrophulariaceae), including a new intraspecific classification for *H. pubescens*.** MJ Bayly, AV Kellow, PJ de Lange, KA Mitchell, KR Markham, PJ Garnock-Jones, PJ Brownsey 2003. *NZ Journal of Botany 41*: 23–53.
 - 1f. **A new species of *Leucopogon* (Epacridaceae) from the Surville Cliffs, North Cape, NZ.** PJ de Lange, PB Heenan, MJ Dawson 2003. *NZ Journal of Botany 41*: 13–21.
 - 1g. **Variation in DNA C-value and genome size in NZ native grasses.** BG Murray, IE Weir, AR Ferguson, P de Lange 2003. *NZ Journal of Botany 41*: 63–69.
 - 1h. **Do weeds respond to pest animal control?** S Timmins, J Gerizlehner 2003. *DOC Science Internal Series 122*. 15p.
 - 1i. **Classifying species according to threat of extinction – a system for NZ.** J Molloy, BD Bell, M Clout, P de Lange, G Gibbs, D Given, D Norton, N Smith, T Stephens 2002. *Threatened Species Occasional Publication 22*. 26p.
 - 1j. **CONSERVATION ACTION – Te Ngangahau ki te Kura Taiao – Conservation with Communities. July 2002–June 2003.**
 - 1k. **Woody vegetation of Central Otago, NZ: its present and past distribution and future restoration needs.** S Walker, WG Lee, GM Rogers 2003. *Science for Conservation 226*. 99 p.
 - 1l. **How long should marine reserves be monitored for – and why?** RG Cole 2003. *DOC Science Internal series 130*. 20 p.
DOC Science Publishing, Box 10 420, WN. Fax 04 496 1929, E-mail science.publicationsdoc.govt.nz
 2. **Wellington Conservation Board – Annual report to the NZ Conservation Authority, 1/7/02 – 30/6/03.** WCB, Box 5086, WN.
 3. **Land Environments of NZ.** April 2003. A classification of environments mapped across NZ's landscape.. It includes an atlas available from book shops, a technical guide available from the **Ministry for the Environment, Box 10 362, WN**, and CDs available from **Landcare Research, Box 40, Lincoln**.
 - 4a. **Landscape Protection – it's What we do.** Pamphlet.
 - 4b. **Biodiversity Protection on Private Land.** Pamphlet
 - 4c. **Open Space.** No.58, 9/03: Harmful hedgehogs – a threat to our native fauna; fencing tips; improving the health and condition of covenants; fabulous ferns; funds for landowners; steps in progressing a QEII open space covenant; etc. *Subscription: individual – \$30, family – \$45; life – \$550; non-profit organisation – \$50.*
Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, Box 3341, WN. Ph 04 472 6626, e-mail: qe2@qe2.org.nz
 - 5a. **Gym too expensive – why don't you adopt your local restoration project?** List of nineteen community projects in Wellington metropolitan area. Pamphlet available from **Department of Conservation, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council and NZ Ecological Restoration Network**.
 - 5b. **Eco-domains for the Wellington Region – Processes and patterns for defining diversity and distinctiveness.** Isobel Gabites for GWRC. Feb 2003. Enquires to **John Holmes, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN, ph 04 384 5708**.
 - 6a. **Branch Out.** Vol 9 – Winter 2003: Darwin's barberry; goat cull in Te Kopahou Reserve; replacing pines with native trees on Town Belt; addition to Otari-Wilton's Bush; Arbor Day planting; conservation education; list of workbees, walks and events, etc.
 - 6b. **Branch Out.** Vol 10 – Spring 2003: Wright Hill revegetation; Outer Green Belt Draft Management Plan; killing possums on Miramar Peninsula; northern rata – Otari Crimson Trail; weed destruction; brush wattle pest; botanical survey of Tapu Te Range Island; revegetation of Kaiwharawhara Valley; use of WCC Environmental Grants; calendar of workbees, walks and events; list of groups involved in revegetation.
- Town Belt and Reserves Curator, Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN. Ph 801 3607.**
- 7a. **Botany of Auckland.** Lucy Cranwell 1981. Colour photographs, illustrations and sketches. \$9 incl p&p.
 - 7b. **Adventive Flora of the Waitakere Range.** J MacKinder 1992. List of 447 plants; line drawings. \$4.50 incl p&p.
 - 7c. **Some Common Auckland Fungi.** JM Dingley 1978. Colour illustrations. \$4.50 incl p&p.
- Auckland Botanical Society, 7 Boundary Rd, Papakura, AK.**

8. *True Colours*. July 2003. Bridget Abernethy, new Executive Director; project funding or trees allocated to projects at Mt Bruce, Mana Island, Keep Porirua Beautiful, Trelissick Park/Ngaio Gorge Working Group; Wellington Crimson trail, etc.
Project Crimson Trust, Box 301 027, Albany, AK. Ph 09 414 0466, e-mail info@projectcrimson.org.nz
9. *Breaking Down the Barriers – A Guide to the Resource Management Act 1991*. Kate Mitcalfe and Marta Lang.
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. Box 631, WN. Available at www.forestandbird.org.nz
10. *Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves Inc.* Pamphlet describing mission, objectives, reserves, history, activities; subscription \$10 for calendar year.
Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves, 94 Larsen Crescent, Tawa, Wellington.
11. *MIRO Fact Sheet No.8 – September 2003*. Forest restoration activities in East Harbour Regional Park.
Mainland Island Restoration Organisation, c/- East Harbour Environmental Association Inc, Box 41 029, Eastbourne 6008.
12. *A Botanical Survey of the Indigenous Forest Remnants in Wellington Botanic Garden, Glenmore Street, Wellington*. BJ Mitcalfe and JC Horne 2003. 77p + maps. \$18 incl p&p.
Friends of Wellington's Botanic Gardens, c/-19b Homewood Avenue, Karori, WN 6005.
- 13a *NZ Plant Conservation Network*. E-newsletter No.1 September 2003. Report on inaugural meeting on 2 August at Te Papa; threatened plant of the month is pingao/*Desmoschoenus spiralis*; web site is www.nzpcn.org.nz; regional BotSocs' activities; etc.
- 13b. *NZ Plant Conservation Network*. Describes vision, membership, background, importance of plant conservation in NZ, focus for the Network, what the Network may do, how the Network relates to existing initiatives, and why you should join.
Mike Oates, Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN, OR e-mail michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz, ph 04 801 3627.
14. *Going Native – making use of NZ's native plants*. Edited by Ian F Spellerberg and David Given. Publication: late 2003. Price \$39.95 (approx). Paperback, 240 p (approx).
Canterbury University Press, PBag 4800, CH. Ph 03 364 2914, fax 03 364 2044, mail@cup.canterbury.ac.nz
15. *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, World Trade Centre, 393 St Jacques, Suite 300, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2Y 1N9. E-mail secretariat@biodiv.org
16. *Nga Uruora - Kapiti Project – Bringing Kapiti Island's dawn chorus back to the coast!* Poster. \$6 per poster, plus \$2 p&p for your entire order. For 1 poster send \$8; for 10 posters send \$62. **Nga Uruora -Kapiti Project, Box 1, Paekakariki.**
17. *NZ's Walkways*. 2003. NZ Conservation Authority, c/- Dept of Conservation, Box 10 420, WN.

SYNOPSIS OF SUBMISSIONS

TO MIKE HANNAWAY, PROJECT MANAGER, WELLINGTON WATERFRONT LIMITED, AUGUST

After a cordial meeting with Mike Hannaway and Megan Wraight, the Landscape Designer, we were invited to submit material to update our earlier submissions (1997 and 2000) on the proposed plantings for Waitangi Park (= Chaffers Park) and its vicinity: **Supported** the extensive use of native plants as shown on the plan, but **queried** the use of pohutukawa and exotics such as alders: “the waterfront should be recognisably “Our Place””; **suggested** groves of cabbage trees *Cordyline australis* and several other tree species for their consideration.

ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY, RE PROPOSED REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, AUGUST

Responded to an invitation from botanist Hugh Wilson who manages Hinewai Reserve, to support Hinewai's commitment to using non-toxic, environmentally-safe and environmentally-sustainable pest-plant control methods; **expressed concern** at ECan's proposed change to the broom and gorse control rules which if implemented, would require a 20m-wide boundary strip be kept clear instead of the present 10m strip which is being manually kept clear of broom and gorse; **explained** that Hinewai is a well-documented, long-term scientific experiment of interest not only to Cantabrians but also to the scientific, and particularly the botanical community at large; **asked** for Hinewai Reserve and other Banks Peninsula ecological restoration projects to be exempted from the proposed changes.

WAIRARAPA COASTAL STRATEGY GROUP (= GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL + CARTERTON, MASTERTON AND SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCILS) RE DRAFT WAIRARAPA COASTAL STRATEGY, SEPTEMBER

Explained our familiarity with the outstanding natural values of Wairarapa coastal ecosystems gained through botanising trips; **expressed** concern that the document is non-statutory; **agreed** that (quoting from their document), “The number and total area of native ecosystems on the Wairarapa Coast has declined dramatically and what remains is precious ...” therefore **questioned** whether the Councils would succeed by such non-mandatory means, in educating and convincing residents, visitors and developers, about the need to give high priority to protecting natural landforms and indigenous ecosystems; **noted** with concern that a significant number of ecologically sensitive sites are not listed in the Strategy; **suggested** five sites known to us, for inclusion; **suggested** the Councils seek further advice from Wellington Conservancy of DOC, about other sites for inclusion in the list; in view of the (quote) “critical state of native ecosystems” in the Wairarapa, **asked** that the Strategy's goals for native ecosystems be quantified, so that progress to reverse the decline can be more readily evaluated; **offered** suggestions for re-wording the goals to this end; **added** quarrying to the list of threats to native ecosystems.

Barbara Mitcalfe

New protected area

- Waiorongomai conservation covenant. Wairarapa Area. Conservation Covenant, Reserves Act 1977. Wetland and marsh species on the southwest shore of Lake Wairarapa.

David Bishop
 Community Relations Officer, Statutory Land Management
 Wellington Conservancy, Department of Conservation
 Box 5086, WN. Ph 04 472 5821, fax 04 499 0077

QEII Open Space Covenants update

As at 9 October 2003, there were 1793 registered open space covenants totalling more than 64,640 ha. Within the boundaries of Greater Wellington Regional Council, there were 144 covenants protecting 4646 ha.

Source: Tim Park, QEII National Trust.

SUBMISSIONS

1. BELMONT REGIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Send your suggestions by **17 October** to Regional Parks and Forests Submissions, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN, or e-mail them to parks@gw.govt.nz. For more information see www.gw.govt.nz, or ring Victoria Owen ph 381 7784. Public meetings will be held to discuss the review – check Public Notices in newspapers.

2. DRAFT CEMETERY MANAGEMENT PLAN – KARORI AND MAKARA CEMETERIES

See document at WCC libraries and service centres, and at www.wcc.govt.nz. Document from, and submissions by **7 November**, to City Development, Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN. Karori Cemetery has a native forest remnant and is an extremely weedy site.

3. DRAFT OPEN SPACE ACCESS STRATEGY – STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OPEN SPACE ACCESS NETWORK

Document from City Development, Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN. Check Public Notices in newspapers for closing date for submissions.

4. WALKING ACCESS IN THE NZ OUTDOORS

Documents from, and submissions by **30 November**, to Land Access Report, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Box 2656, WN, **OR** by e-mail to land.access@maf.govt.nz Public meetings will be held in Wellington – **16 October**, and Masterton – **17 October**; for details ring Helen Avery ph 04 474 4230, **OR** at above e-mail address.

5. WELLINGTON'S OUTER GREEN BELT DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

See summary booklet with submission form, and the full plan with detailed descriptions and policies, at WCC libraries and service centres, and www.wcc.govt.nz. Send submissions by **1 December** to: Outer Green Belt, Wellington City Council, Freepost 57412, Box 2199, WN, **OR** fill in same form on Council's web site www.wcc.govt.nz **OR** send an e-mail to ogbsubmissions@wcc.govt.nz

6. PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT ON INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY

This will be notified by the Minister for the Environment this month. Check Public Notices in newspapers for closing date for submissions. Ring Allen Sheppard 03 963 0940, or e-mail allen.sheppard@mfe.govt.nz

7. GENERAL POLICY FOR CONSERVATION & NATIONAL PARKS

When approved, these two draft statements of General Policy will guide the direction of conservation management in New Zealand for some time. One draft statement covers the Conservation Act 1987 and related legislation (for approval by the Minister of Conservation), and the other covers the National Parks Act 1980 (for adoption by the NZ Conservation Authority). Copies of both drafts can be inspected free of charge during office hours at all Area, Conservancy and Regional offices of the Department of Conservation, and at public libraries. They can be downloaded from the DOC web site: www.doc.govt.nz Submissions by **20 December** to: Director-General of Conservation, Department of Conservation, Box 10 420, WN – Attention: General Policy.

9. BIODIVERSITY ADVICE FUND, AND BIODIVERSITY CONDITION FUND

DOC, Box 10-420, WN. www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/land/condition.html e-mail: biofunds@doc.govt.nz; Ph: 04 471 3296; Fax: 04 471 3130; to find out closing date for next round of applications. Biodiversity Advice Fund grants money to applicants able to provide good advice to land managers on how to look after bioiversity. The Biodiversity Condition Fund grants money to projects aimed at caring for native habitats, e.g. through fencing, weed removal and pest animal control.

2003/2004 committee

At the 64th Annual General Meeting on 18 August 2003, the following were elected:

President:	Chris Horne ¹	475 7025 ph/fax
Vice-Presidents:	Joyce Wilson To be advised ²	934 2437
Secretary:	Barbara Clark	233 8202
Treasurer:	Rodney Lewington	475 3145
Auditor:	Peter Beveridge	237 8777
Committee:	Penny Currier Ian Goodwin Gordon Leary Sheelagh Leary Barbara Mitcalfe Sunita Singh	473 9520 475 7248 527 7380 527 7380 475 7149 ph/fax 387 9955
Submissions	Joyce Wilson	934 2437
co-ordinators:	Penny Currier Sunita Singh	473 9520 387 9955
Bulletin Editor:	John Sawyer	472 5821

1 Newsletter Editor

2 A second Vice-President will be chosen at the first meeting of the new committee.

Ecological survey of Tapu Te Ranga Island

Wellington City Council are conducting an ecological survey of Tapu Te Ranga Island, Island Bay, listed in the District Plan as a Conservation Site and Maori Precinct. Windswept, weedy, and only c.3.2 ha in area, (depending on the tide), it lies c. 300 m offshore. The island is a stronghold of *Melicytus* aff. *obovatus*, a Wellington endemic shrub categorised as regionally critically endangered, and the herb *Suaeda novae-zelandiae*, similarly endangered. BotSoccer Mike Oates, WCC Manager, Natural and Botanic Areas, says, "The top priority is to protect the rare species that grow there and gradually increase their numbers. We will also be looking at moving other rare plants species to the island as the weed removal programme starts taking effect."

Barbara Mitcalfe

Trial of native plants in riparian sites

In the December 2002 issue of the newsletter I reported on the WRC/WBS riparian planting trials in three sites beside the Hutt River. The trials are being monitored independently by two qualified auditors. This year's measuring and monitoring work bee was to be on Friday 10 October. A report on the monitoring will be in the next newsletter.

Barbara Mitcalfe

Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award

Wellington Botanical Society invites applications for an Award of up to \$2000 to encourage and assist applicants to further knowledge of the New Zealand indigenous flora, and to commemorate the 50th Jubilee of the Society.

Purpose of the Award

The Award is open to anyone working in New Zealand and will be granted for: field work; artistic endeavour; publication; research; propagation or cultivation of NZ native plants for educational purposes and/or other studies which promote the better understanding of the NZ indigenous flora and vegetation. The interpretation of these conditions will be flexible, except that the main criterion will be the furtherance of knowledge or promotion of the intrinsic value of the indigenous NZ flora and vegetation.

The Award may be used to defray costs such as travel, accommodation, materials or publication.

Applications for the Award

Applications should be made in typescript to: Secretary, Wellington Botanical Society, PO Box 10-412, Wellington, by 31 October 2003. There is no prescribed application form, but the following must be provided:

- the applicant's name, postal address, telephone number, any relevant position held;
- a summary statement of the applicant's accomplishments in the field of botany (no more than one page);
- an outline and timetable for the proposed project for which the Award is sought;
- a proposed budget for the project.

Selection

The award will be made to one or more applicants selected by a subcommittee nominated by the general committee of Wellington Botanical Society. Award(s) will be made, and applicants informed of the results in writing, by 24 December 2003. Successful applicants will be required to provide, at an agreed time, a short report on what they have achieved and an account of their expenditure of Award funds.

The names of Award recipients, the value of the Award(s), and a synopsis of the project(s) will be published in the Annual Report of Wellington Botanical Society.

Barbara Clark,
Secretary

Karori Tunnel eastern portal planting

Almost all the wharariki/*Phormium cookianum* planted last October survived a very dry summer and autumn on this steep, well-drained site, but the ti kouka/*Cordyline australis* almost all died. Unfortunately they were almost certainly affected by the spray used to control the masses of weeds in preparation for this year's planting. On 23 September, we (WCC staff Viv Haupapa and Paulo Fuiono, and two BotSoccers) put in more than 400 plants, (wharariki, ti kouka and 20 kowhai). They are very closely spaced to allow for likely casualties on this difficult site. Fortunately, there has been quite a lot of rain since the planting. Martin Simonlehner, WCC Manager, Horticulture, says that from now on, because of its extreme weediness, it will be included in the maintenance programme.

Barbara Mitcalfe.

OBITUARY

Frank Philip Hudson, 1918–2003

Frank Hudson was born in Herne Bay, Auckland, on 4 February 1918. He lived all his life, apart from war service and his last few years, on the family farm at Kaipara Flats. He was in the army when war broke out, but transferred to the RNZAF. After training in Canada, he flew with the RAF as a rear gunner in Bomber Command, and flew 18 operations over enemy territory.

Frank's first involvement with Auckland BotSoc was when fellow Warkworth resident Lucy Moore (1906–1987) was asked to lead a trip to Logues Bush at Labour Weekend 1984. Frank offered to take people in his car. Sandra Jones looked at Maureen Young in astonishment when she identified *Bulbophyllum tuberculatum*, although Maureen hadn't seen it before, and then Frank found two large totara side by side, and proceeded to give a lecture on why one was *Podocarpus totara*, and the other was *P. hallii*. We were then instantly accepted as the right sort of people, and both joined Auckland BotSoc after that trip.

Wellington BotSoccers had the pleasure of the company of Frank Hudson and Maureen Young, who were also Wellington BotSoccers, on several New Year field trips. In fact, Frank and Maureen established a record in travelling from Warkworth to Borland Lodge, Southland, a big distance indicative of their enthusiasm for native plants and fascinating natural areas.

Adapted from obituary in Auckland Botanical Society Journal, Volume 58(1) June 2003 by Maureen E. Young and Ewen K Cameron – Editor



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, AUGUST 2003

It has been a busy year for the Society. I would like to thank all those members who have contributed in so many ways to the running of BotSoc, to the study of botany, and to the protection and management of indigenous ecosystems.

Field Trips

We have had a successful programme of 16 trips, with attendances totalling 244 people—average 15.3 per trip:

2002

7/9: *Otari-Wilton's Bush - Johnston Hill Reserve*. 29. Leaders: Dr John Dawson, Chris Horne, Barbara Mitcalfe.

5/10: *Strathmore revelations*. 19. Leader: Julia White.

19/10: *Te Marua Bush workbee*. 8. Barbara Mitcalfe.

3/11: *Kapiti Island*. 25. Jane Humble.

7/12: *Palliser Ridge Station, South Wairarapa*. 12. Leaders: Geoff Doring, Jenny Doring.

2003

2–12/1: *Summer Camp: Bay of Plenty*. 25. Leaders: Graeme Jane, Gael Donaghy. Food organiser: Joyce Wilson.

18/1: *Rimutaka Forest Park*. 7. Leader: Chris Hopkins.

1-2/2: *Wharekauhau Stream; Battery Stream, South Wairarapa*. 10. Leader: Sunita Singh.

1/3: *Eastbourne hills*. 11. Ian Goodwin.

23/3: *Huntleigh Park forest remnant* (for WCC *Stepping Out!* programme). 14. Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Horne.

5/4: *Eastern Hutt hills, Leary & Tankersley private forests*. 13. Sheelagh Leary, Gordon Leary, Patricia Tankersley.

18–21/4: *(Easter) Mt Ross, Aorangi Forest Park, and private forests*. 6. Rodney Lewington.

4/5: *Kaukau - Skyline Track - Bell's Track*. 8 + the 4-legged "JS" Bach. Joyce Wilson.

7/6: *Moonshine Road, Upper Hutt - J M and I Flux QEII covenants*. 23. Ian, John and Meg Flux, and Meryll Park.

21/6: *Te Marua Bush workbee*. 14. Sue Millar, Glennis Shepperd.

5/7: *Gibbs's QEII covenant, Eastbourne*. 0. Postponed by storm.

3/8: *Karori Sanctuary*. 30. Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Horne.

Evening Meetings

We moved to Victoria University's Murphy Building Lecture Theatre 101 in 2002, after many years of using Kirk Lecture Theatre 301. We thank **Professor Phil Garnock-Jones** and **Paulette Stenhouse**, for making available these lecture theatres, and their teaching aids.

With a programme of nine excellent speakers on fascinating topics, we had attendances totalling 339 people—average 37.6 per meeting. We thank **Julia White** for promoting the programme through her e-mail contact, **George Jones**.

2002

16/9: Dr Linley Jesson, VUW. *Evolution of mirror-image flowers*. 24.

21/10: Isobel Gabites, landscape ecologist. *Beyond the native garden*. 49.

18/11: Dr Steve Urlich, DOC/WN. *Ecological monitoring in Wellington Conservancy*. 41.

2003

17/2: Dr George Gibbs, VUW. *Links between invertebrates and plants*. 44.

17/3: *Members' evening*. 18.

28/4: Dr Ian St George, NZ Orchid Group. *Macro-photography of native orchids*. 29.

19/5: Mike Oates and Joanna Gillanders, WCC. *Restoration and community partnerships*. 33.

16/6: Andy Malone, veterinarian. *Flora of Enderby Island, Auckland Islands, flora*. 50.

21/7: Dr Hamish Campbell, Te Papa/IGNS. *NZ - Ark or submersible substrate?* 51.

Thanks to **Sunita Singh** for organising the programme, to field trip leaders, speakers, and to **Joyce Wilson** for organising the food for our summer camp.

Publications

We thank:

- **Dr Carol West** for editing *WBS bulletin* 48, September 2002.
- **John Sawyer**, our new editor, who is nearing publication of *WBS bulletin* 49.
- **Jeremy Rolfe** for formatting *WBS bulletin* 48, and the three issues of the newsletter.
- **Ian Goodwin** for designing a questionnaire sent to recipients of complimentary newsletters, and for summarising trip reports for inclusion in the NZ Botanical Society Newsletter.
- **Lithoprint Ltd** for printing 450 copies of *WBS bulletin* 48, and **NZ Print Ltd** for printing 600 copies of each of our newsletters.
- **All contributors** to our bulletin and newsletter, and the **committee members** who maintain the membership list and do the mail-outs.
- NZ Post's **Community Post** for 350 postage-paid envelopes to use when promoting BotSoc's objects.
- **Colin Benson, Julia White, and Ian Goodwin** for teaching me computing skills, and bailing me out in crises close to the deadline. **Barbara Mitcalfe** for use of her computer since 1993 until **Colin Benson** gave me a second-hand computer.

Electronic communications

Thanks to **Julia White** and **Penny Currier** for designing our website, and **Penny Currier** and **Roger Currier** for maintaining it.

Our Newsletter is now available to members by e-mail, and the programme is available to everyone with access to the Internet.

Membership

As at 18 August 2003, BotSoc had 195 financial members, 47 life members, *and 110 members in arrears*. **THE PROBLEM OF ARREARS IS SEVERELY STRAINING OUR FINANCES**. The 195 financial members include 12 families and 17 new members this year. We look forward to your continued membership, and thank **Jane Humble, Penny Currier** and **Roger Currier** for maintaining our membership records.

NZ Plant Conservation Network

At a time when indigenous ecosystems are increasingly under threat, and professional botanists are struggling to stem the tide, the need for the botanical societies has never been greater. We congratulate BotSoccers **John Sawyer, Mike Oates, Tim Park** and **Barbara Mitcalfe**, for their work as the committee which set up the network, and organised the inaugural meeting at Te Papa on 2 August. The need for the network was shown by the attendance of 110 amateur and professional botanists from all over the country, and as far afield as Dunedin and Whangarei.

Te Marua Bush

Since 1989 BotSoc has been working on the restoration of this 0.6ha remnant of matai-totara-black maire forest near Upper Hutt. We have had two workbees this year to plant more trees and to continue weed control, especially around our previous plantings. Thanks to **Greater Wellington Regional Council** for its continuing support of our work, with funds for pest plant control by BotSoccer, **Darryl Kee**, and the presence of **rangers** at workbees. Thanks also to BotSoccers **Sue Millar** and **Glennis Shepperd** who live nearby, so act as voluntary rangers.

Display boards

These boards, sponsored by the **Department of Conservation**, are proving invaluable for getting our message to the public. They have been used at **Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day, WCC's Berhampore Nursery Open Day**, two **NZ Ecological Restoration Network** meetings, and during **Conservation Week** at Wellington Anglican Cathedral and the Legislative Chamber's Great Hall. Thanks to **Barbara Mitcalfe** for designing and updating the display.

Secretary

Thanks to **Barbara Clark** for her work managing so much of BotSoc's paperwork, including the printing of AP (Tony) Druce's Trip Log.

Treasurer, Auditor

Thanks to Treasurer **Jane Humble**, to **Rodney Lewington** for his assistance with our accounts, and to **Peter Beveridge** for auditing them. Jane is stepping down after three years in the job.

Submissions Co-ordinator

Thanks to **Barbara Mitcalfe** for preparing our many submissions and letters, all of which have helped to maintain BotSoc's profile among bureaucrats and politicians in local, regional and central government. She has attended numerous hearings to speak in support of our submissions. Barbara is standing down after ten years in the job, but will continue to assist.

Awards

Thanks to **Dr Patrick Brownsey, Prof. Phil Garnock-Jones** and **Dr Barry Sneddon** for assessing applications for BotSoc's Jubilee Award. No award was made this year because none of the projects submitted met the criteria.

BotSoc wrote a letter in support of Dr Peter de Lange's nomination of **Colin Ogle** for the HH Allan Mere Award which is sponsored by NZ Botanical Society.

We nominated **Arnold** and **Ruth Dench** for a Conservation Award and regret that our nomination was not successful. We thank Arnold and Ruth for bringing plants to sell at each evening meeting, and donating the income to the Jubilee Award Fund.

Grants

Thanks to **Rodney Lewington** and **Professor Phil Garnock-Jones** for administering BotSoc's Student Field Grants scheme.

Thanks to **Joyce Wilson** who liaised with N.I.W.A. about the Wellington Secondary Schools Science Fair, where we sponsored a prize.

Appointments

Congratulations to our nominee **Bev Abbott** who was appointed by the Minister of Conservation to the Wellington Conservation Board in November 2002.

Congratulations to **Robyn Smith** who, after seven years as supervisor at Percy Scenic Reserve, Lower Hutt, was appointed as horticultural team leader at Wellington Zoo, and has now taken up the position of Curator Manager, Otari-Wilton's Bush.

Committee

Thanks to all members of our hard-working committee for dividing up BotSoc's work between them, thus spreading the considerable workload.

Conclusion

The plant lists we prepare on our field trips help land-owners and land managers, to work towards implementing the NZ Biodiversity Strategy. The pleasure which we derive from visiting natural areas is reward enough. The knowledge that we gain about our indigenous flora, and then using that knowledge to promote its conservation, is an added bonus. Happy botanising in the coming year!

Thank you for the honour of being elected as President for 2002/03. I have enjoyed working with so many enthusiastic BotSoccers.

Chris Horne, President

Wellington Conservation Board

We congratulate Dr Maggy Wassilieff, consultant ecologist, environmental educator and BotSoccer, who has been appointed by the Minister of Conservation to the Board. She joins BotSoccer Bev Abbott who was appointed to the Board last year. Robert Logan, Secretary, Southern Environmental Association, and Trustee, Wellington Natural Heritage Trust Inc, which owns the 50.5-ha Long Gully Bush Reserve, has also been appointed to the Board.

BotSoc Committee

Otari–Wilton’s Bush news

It has been four weeks since I started work at Otari Wilton’s Bush and I am just starting to settle in and feel at home. The staff have been pivotal in making my induction gentle and friendly. Six months have elapsed since Jane Wright left and the staff have had to deal not only with their normal duties but take on extra responsibilities.

Two weeks after starting, the annual open day and plant sale was held despite bad weather. Native plant week followed on from the open day and our speakers were Colin Miskelly who gave us a talk on the effects Karori Wildlife Sanctuary will have on bird life over the fence, John Dawson and Rob Lucas spoke on their partnership over the years of writing books together, Tamati Potaka spoke on combining traditional Maori medicine with modern herbal remedies, and Julia Williams gave a talk on using natives in our challenging sites in Wellington. These lectures were well attended and 70 people attended the Glow-worm walk. Thanks to all our speakers and guides for a wonderful 10 days of promotion and interest. The staff at Otari organised these events and I thank them for doing such a great job. Thanks too, to the Otari-Wilton’s Bush Trust, botanic gardens staff, guides and stall holders for their work.

Contractors have installed handrails on the bridge to the waterfall and at the bottom of the Nature Trail. We are now working on interpretation for the glow-worm/dragonfly viewing platform.

Landscape design students from Victoria University came for a second series of talks and guided walks. Staff were on hand to pass on their specialist plant and horticultural knowledge to the students.

Eucalyptus logs were collected from trees felled in Karori Cemetery and will be used as edging around the Wild Garden. The dracophyllum garden and fernery are being re-furbished after completion of the Wilton Walkway. This short boardwalk ends with a viewing platform “looking in” at the original bush conserved by Job Wilton and his descendants.

Volunteers spent two mornings cleaning up the roadside and river edges at Otari in conjunction with Clean Up New Zealand Week. Thanks to Margaret Crimp of the Trust for organising the volunteers.

Robyn Smith

We congratulate BotSoccer Robyn Smith on her appointment from 1 September as Curator Manager at Otari–Wilton’s Bush, New Zealand’s only botanic garden devoted solely to native plants. Robyn and her staff are responsible for the management of the 100 ha reserve, which comprises original and regenerating conifer broadleaf forest, and 5 ha of plant collections. It was at Otari, in 1926, that Dr Leonard Cockayne and J.G. McKenzie established the Otari Open Air Native Plant Museum. Their vision to conserve native vegetation, teach people about native plants, and advocate their use in horticulture, remains as the blueprint for Otari–Wilton’s Bush today.

BotSoc Committee

Makaro/Ward Island Report

My task on 14 August 2003 was to compile a list of indigenous and introduced plant species.

Surprisingly there were relatively few native plants and even fewer weed species. Tree cover was predominantly taupata/*Coprosma repens* with pohutukawa/*Metrosideros excelsa* and karo/*Pittosporum crassifolium*. There was a solitary cabbage tree/*Cordyline australis*.

George Gibbs recalled a grass-covered island in the 1940s. This suggests that the tree cover could be up to 60 years old. I speculate that the taupata seed was brought over by black-backed gulls.

The Department of Conservation introduced two additional species, toetoe/*Cortaderia* sp. and wharariki/*Phormium cookianum*. There is a need for an agreed reintroduction list appropriate to the island.

The second task was the pulling of the pest plants karo and tree mallow. An exotic ice plant near the summit had been earlier pulled out by Rob Stone, DOC, and left to rot. Its presence suggests that plants have been planted on the island. Research should be undertaken for any records of plantings and for any plant species lists that have been compiled.

It was encouraging to find so few weed species. With the exception of veld grass, which is the dominant ground-cover in open sites, they could be easily eliminated.

I am grateful for the opportunity to land on Makaro/Ward Island for the first time. My thanks to Reg Cotter for his organisation and to Perce Harpham for his generosity in offering his yacht to transport the party.

C (Stan) Butcher

NZ Plant Conservation Network Council

We congratulate Robyn Smith who was appointed to the council at the inaugural meeting of the network at Te Papa on 2 August—see story overleaf. Robyn spent seven years as Supervisor at Percy Scenic Reserve, Lower Hutt, where, among other work, she managed the A.P. Druce plant collection and the alpine plant collection. Robyn then spent ten months as Curator - Team Leader at Wellington Zoo, before becoming Curator Manager at Otari–Wilton’s Bush on 1 September.

BotSoc Committee

Project Crimson “Protecting pohutukawa and rata”

The new Executive Director is Bridget Abernethy who is based with Denise Matthews at the new location in Albany, Auckland. Bridget replaces Debbie Teale.

Please amend your records as follows:

Project Crimson Trust:

PO Box 301 027 c/o CHH Forests
Albany 3 Omega Street
AUCKLAND North Harbour Industrial Estate
 Albany
 AUCKLAND

Ph 09 414 0466; fax 09 415 9985.

The following are unchanged:

e-mail: info@projectcrimson.org.nz;

website: www.projectcrimson.org.nz

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network officially launched



Preventing the extinction of New Zealand's most threatened native plants and plant communities is the vision of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, officially launched in Wellington in August. The need for collaboration, to ensure protection for New Zealand plant

life, has never been greater and the establishment of a national plant network in New Zealand provides one mechanism to achieve this.

We all understand the importance of New Zealand as a 'biodiversity hotspot' but in a recent conservation assessment, 119 indigenous vascular plant taxa were classified as acutely threatened in New Zealand with a further 102 taxa in decline. In addition, 89 bryophyte and 50 fungi taxa are also acutely threatened (for definitions of the new threat categories see the Network's website www.nzpcn.org.nz). Acutely threatened plant species include Wellington species such as the Endangered *Lepidium oleraceum* (Cook's scurvy grass) and the Critical *Olearia gardneri*. Both face extinction in the wild as a result of human development, spread of weeds and damage caused by animal pests.

Over 100 people attended the inaugural meeting of the Network, including botanists, horticulturalists and representatives of restoration groups, botanic gardens, zoos, local councils, universities and the Department of Conservation. The main focus of the meeting was the protection and recovery of threatened plants and their associated communities. The meeting was structured around the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC). Global and national plant conservation issues were discussed and priorities for action were determined to prevent further decline in indigenous species. The full text of the Global Strategy can be obtained from the home page of the website.

Dr Kingsley Dixon (President of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation) gave the opening address to the network by describing the 16 targets of the GSPC. These include protection of important plant areas, education and training, cultivation of threatened species and species restoration (by establishing a national network New Zealand had already implemented Target 16 of the Global Strategy).

Peter de Lange (Chief Plant Conservation Scientist at the Department of Conservation) then described the precarious nature of New Zealand's threatened plants and identified key areas for future work including biosystematics, legal protection of plants and the need to include cryptogams and fungi in conservation programmes.

Sir Paul Reeves, former Governor-General of New Zealand, launched the Network and received gifts from the Network in the form of threatened plants to be used in local restoration projects. The new national website (www.nzpcn.org.nz) devoted to native plant conservation was then launched. The site is intended to provide information about native plant conservation in New Zealand and, in particular, information about threatened species and key people.

Workshops were held to determine how New Zealand is to implement the GSPC. Some key recommendations and conclusions from the workshops were that:

- The network should **act as a coordinating body** encouraging development of lists of threatened plants and communities (both national and regional) and promoting involvement of all agencies and public.
- The Network should help to **collect information** needed to be able to complete threatened species lists. Publicising gaps in knowledge of biodiversity (e.g., algae, fungi, bryophytes and data deficient species) and raising awareness of reasons to protect plant communities and species.
- An **Important Plant Area project** in New Zealand would be good advocacy for plant conservation in New Zealand and throughout Oceania, good for providing a baseline of the current state of important plant areas in New Zealand and good for prioritising future protection efforts for native plant life.
- The network should **act as the lead organisation** for the Important Plant Area project, establishing a key stakeholder group and coordinating meetings to develop a national process for the project.
- Greater protection for acutely threatened plants in New Zealand is a high priority and the Network **should pursue legal protection** for native plants through scoping issues and options and reviewing overseas experience.
- The network should **develop plant conservation training programmes** and work to extend the skills of existing specialists.
- The Network should set up **regional plant conservation networks** (10 in total).
- The network should **identify plant conservation education resources** and programmes that currently exist (i.e., undertake a stock take) and promote examples of good practice.
- The Network should **identify gaps** in plant conservation education and aim to fill the gaps by preparing and implementing an education strategy.

Since its establishment in April 2003, the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network has grown to over 130 members and will play a key coordinating role in the drive to ensure protection for New Zealand's plant life. A regular E-newsletter is posted out to members each month and in due course a Plant Conservation Bulletin may be provided 4 times a year.

Membership of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network is open to any individual, group or government agency. You can join directly over the website or download a copy of the membership form. Subscriptions are as follows: Individual – \$30, Concession – \$20, Corporate \$200, NGO – \$75. For more information, or to join the network, please contact us as follows or see the information provided on the website:

NEW ZEALAND PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK
P.O. BOX 16-102
WELLINGTON
Email: info@nzpcn.org.nz
Website: www.nzpcn.org.nz

John Sawyer, Secretary, New Zealand Plant Conservation Network
Network email: secretary@nzpcn.org.nz
Work email: jsawyer@doc.govt.nz

Over the hill

This winter has been the season of birds in the Wairarapa—but with a couple of plants thrown in for added spice.

Six kokako have so far (there are four more to come) made the long journey from Mangatutu at the northern end of the Rangitoto Range to the Mount Bruce forest, where they were released as part of a project to restore this remnant of the once mighty Seventy Mile Bush.

Nearly 3 months since the initial release, the birds have roamed over much of the forest as they explore their new home, but have tended to concentrate on the higher ridge system and, most importantly, have not tried to leave. Most days find the birds well inside the forest scrambling about in the canopy and gliding over the gullies, the latter usually when someone has just spent an hour crawling through thick supplejack in the hope of actually seeing them. The kokako are fitted with radio transmitters so that their movements and eventual establishing of territories can be followed—just as well, for otherwise they are virtually impossible to detect. In the months since their release there have only been a handful of sightings, but hundreds of telemetry signals have been plotted to give a record of their travels.

Predator control in the whole forest is underway, with possums trapped relentlessly over the winter and rat control about to begin to protect any kokako nests this summer.

In addition to rat traps and bait stations there is a huge network of stoat traps throughout the block to support a release of kiwi early this summer.

All this is serviced by a network of tracks and sidle lines, so the next BotSoc trip—and it has been probably five years or so since the last one—can go to places that in the dim and distant past were simply inaccessible.

All this focus has also led to plant finds at Mount Bruce. I had long wondered about the apparent absence of a couple of species that should be up there. *Passiflora tetrandra* I found one day in a light gap caused by the falling of a big rata near the top of a ridge, and now kiekie (*Freycinetia baueriana*) has also made itself known. Of more moment though is the discovery of *Dactyloctenium aegyptium*—found on one of the sidle tracks by a pair of sharp possum trappers. This is only the second site in the Wairarapa and opens up the whole of the forest as a potential site. BotSoc had an unsuccessful hunt for it during the last trip to Mount Bruce; maybe the next trip will turn up more of the elusive beast now that we know it is there. The same people are also looking for *Dactyloctenium* in the Rimutaka Ranges during their usual goat hunting work, so I think it's only a matter of time before it is found there, too.

And finally, next time you venture to the Tararuas, keep an eye open for a *Myrsine* in the silver beech belt just below the bushline—Peter Heenan at Landcare Research and Peter de Lange at DOC in Auckland are in the process of describing this entity and would love specimens from places other than Mount Holdsworth.

Tony Silbery

It is an offence to take plant specimens from conservation areas without a permit.—Ed.

Kaiwharawhara Stream revegetation survey

Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust and Wellington City Council, have been revegetating the lower slopes of Kaiwharawhara Valley, between the tip face of the former Wilton Tip, near Karori Cemetery, and Otari's Troup Picnic Area, since 2001. In that time about 16,000 trees and shrubs have been planted.

Conclusions

NOTE: These results are site-specific.

1. Performance

Highest growth rates: wineberry, lemonwood, karamu, lacebark/*Hoheria sexstylosa*, five-finger, poroporo.

Highest survival rates: lemonwood, kohuhu, mahoe, wineberry.

Biggest losses: recorded on the true right of the valley (sunny and windy), from mahoe, wineberry, karamu.

Best results: recorded on the true left of the valley (shady and sheltered), from lemonwood, kohuhu, wineberry.

Best all-round species, in terms of survival, growth rates, shading ability, and longevity: lemonwood, kohuhu.

2. Species

Mahoe has been one of the slowest growers. It survives well where there is shelter from wind.

Wineberry has grown up incredibly well, but cannot tolerate strong wind, and doesn't provide much shade.

Karamu and **koromiko** have grown well, but become straggly, with average shading ability.

Lacebark and **five-finger** have done well, and it would be good to try more of them.

Poroporo on sheltered sites has outgrown everything.

Cabbage trees are hardy, but do not provide much shade.

Mapou has hardly grown at all.

3. Methods

Carpet squares used for suppressing weeds have had limited success. They ring-barked and smothered some seedlings on windy sites, until the seedlings were staked and rocks put on the carpet. On sloping sites, they have sometimes pulled the plants down as they slipped down slope. Smaller carpet squares are now used. They are laid after the plants have been staked, but before spring growth starts.

From report by Jonathan Kennett and Bronwen Wall, 28 April 2003.

A great gift idea!

Are you looking for a gift for a relative or a friend who is interested in native plants? What about a subscription to Wellington Botanical Society? Benefits include:

- meeting kindred spirits
- ten evening meetings a year with presentations by speakers on a wide range of botanical topics
- field trips every month, giving the chance to botanise on public and private land, while learning more about our remarkable native flora
- three issues of the Newsletter each year
- our splendid Bulletin.

If this is the idea you have been seeking, please complete the subscription form at the back of this Newsletter, noting on it that it is a gift subscription from you to the new BotSoccer, so that we can tell the lucky recipient who made the gift.

BotSoc Committee

EVENING MEETINGS

17 February 2003. Dr George Gibbs: Links between invertebrates and plants

An entomologist's view of insect predation on plants was taken at this meeting which focussed on the nature of the plant-insect association, the typical kinds of insects that eat plants, some of the chemistry involved in selecting which plant to eat, and a few New Zealand examples illustrating the complexity of some relationships. Insects are very ancient forms of terrestrial animal life and have been there all along while plants have been evolving, hence are very sensitive to every possible plant defence strategy. An example of a Jurassic moth in amber from the Lebanon was given. The amber proved to be agathin (from an *Agathis* relative) and would have been growing on the northern shores of Gondwana 140 million years ago. Almost identical moths and trees occur in New Zealand, New Caledonia and Australia today.

About half of all insects eat plants (i.e. 9000 species in New Zealand). The main plant eaters are the grasshoppers, the sucking bugs (aphids, scales,

cicadas), thrips, psocids, stick insects, and moths. The lesser wanderer butterfly (*Danaus chrysippus*), a close relative of the monarch, was examined to stress its intimate association with special plants which give it food, chemical protection and pheromones, through the absorption of toxic materials. The pestiferous white butterfly is another relatively fussy feeder and will only go for plants with mustard oils in them. However grass grubs will eat almost any plant because their stimulants are sugar and vitamin C which are present in a wide range of plants. All these chemicals distributed through the plant world basically determine the 'grazing rights' of the herbivorous insects, such that no plant gets over-consumed and virtually every plant has at least one insect that relies upon it. Weevils on speargrasses (*Aciphylla*) were used as examples of host-specific relationships.

Several examples were brought in to illustrate the lengths insects will go to obtain food from apparently unsuitable plant materials. The puriri moth, for

instance, spends about 6 months under a rotten log on the forest floor, living off a diet of fungi before it is big and strong enough to climb a tree trunk and bore a hole which it occupies for the rest of its 2-year larval life. Once installed, it does not eat the wood but relies on regrowth of the cambial layer, which is far more nutritious. Other examples cited included the ambrosia beetles which carry fungal spores with them when they lay their eggs so that the wood becomes infected with an organism which they can digest. And the siren wood-wasp, which goes a step further by injecting a tree toxin to wilt the tree and thus facilitate establishment of the fungus. Insect-infected plants are often stimulated to produce extra tissue which nourishes the insect as in gall-formers.

The talk concluded with speculation about the possible role of native plant extracts which show active anti-feedant properties. These have been found in horopito, kawakawa, kowhai and kohekohe.

28 April 2003. Speaker: Ian St George: Macro photography of native orchids

The report of this presentation, and accompanying photographs, has been presented for consideration for inclusion in the BotSoc Bulletin.

OBITUARY

Dr Isobel Morice, 1909 – 2003

Isobel, one of the oldest and most devoted members of BotSoc, died on 18 June 2003. Apart from her last few years at Malvina Major Retirement Village, she had lived at the home in which she was brought up, in Wadestown, from which, nevertheless, she had gone forth at times to many parts of the world. She was a well-known Wadestown identity, and a long-time worshipper at Wadestown Presbyterian Church.

Isobel had led an adventurous and interesting life, and had travelled to many countries. Her chosen field was science, and her working life was spent in Department of Agriculture research, mainly in the Fats Research Division of DSIR. When she "retired", she spent much time in the office of the Royal Society.

As an avocation she took up botany. Her name is commemorated in the *Astelia* genus ("*Astelia moriceae*"). It is interesting that she did research on the fats in the seeds of *Astelia* and other plants, including *Phormium* spp, in her DSIR persona.

Above all, Isobel was devoted to the activities of Wellington Botanical Society, of which she was a long-time member, and held several offices, including secretary for thirteen years, and president for a year. She seldom missed a meeting or a field trip. Indeed, her knowledge of past activities was encyclopaedic, and if anyone wanted to know when we went to, say, the Heaphy, or Ngamatea Station, and what we did there, they got full details immediately from her.

Many members will have in their mind's eye pictures of Isobel in the forefront of a hill climb, or a stream crossing, accompanied occasionally by a Nepalese protégé. Also of course, pictures of her scrubbing billies or stirring the pot.

Isobel always pulled her weight in Society activities, and indeed, more than her weight (she wasn't very hefty). No one could have had a better tramping companion or tent mate than her. Isobel gave a lot to the Society.

EW (Ted) Williams

TRIP REPORTS

Saturday, 1 March 2003: Eastern Harbour Hills, above Days Bay

The 10:30 start from Days Bay wharf was timed for the arrival of the ferry from Wellington. A perfect crossing in windless clear skies for Ian, Jill and Philip who came from Wellington.

Route: Moana Road Track up to the ridge east of Days Bay. The upper quarter of this track is poorly formed, but offers a wide range of plants and trees, not to mention the occasional wafts of the wonderful perfume from clumps of *Earina autumnalis* in flower at this time of year. Once at the ridge, north to the Korimako Loop Track turn-off on the left, and down to Ferry Road, finally returning to civilisation at the Williams

Park duck pond, just in time for the Wellingtonians to catch the 4:15 p.m. ferry back to Queen's wharf.

With a thoroughly complete (10-page) species list, kindly provided by John Sawyer of DOC, it was unlikely that anyone would win the chocolate fish. However Chris Hopkins identified *Alseuosmia pusilla*, toropapa, on the ridge in beech forest. It was not in flower.

As deputy leader, Peter Beveridge did not qualify for a chocolate fish, despite identifying six additional mosses to add to his Te Papa list for East Harbour Regional Park. These were:

Camptochaete angustata, *Distichophyllum rotundifolium*, *Echinodium umbrosum*, *Macromitrium retusum*, *Papillaria flavo-limbata*, *Philonotis tenuis*.

Wonderful weather, good company, two lunches, ten pages of species, new finds—what more could one ask for.

Participants: Phillip Alve, Peter Beveridge (deputy leader), Rae Collins, Ian Goodwin (leader), Jill Goodwin, Chris Hopkins, Rosalind Iles, Cliff Mason, Cath Mathews, Anne Milburn, Chris Varoy.

Ian Goodwin

5 July 2003: Gibbs's Covenant and Butterfly Creek.

This trip was cancelled because of a severe southerly storm. It will be rescheduled for late 2004.

Swamp maire translocation

In September several *Syzygium maire*/maire tawake were topped, uprooted and moved by a Transit NZ digger to their new site in Kaitoke Regional Park. John Campbell of ERANZ, (Environmental Research Associates of NZ), planned and oversaw this operation to save these uncommon trees which were growing in the path of the SH2 realignment. Arrangements were made to keep the trees inundated in their new site and to guy them with wires to prevent them from being further destabilised by wind. It remains to be seen whether the move will succeed. When last seen, in August, the trees had not yet begun to sprout.

Barbara Mitcalfe

21 June 2003: Te Marua Bush – Work Party

This was a combined effort with Upper Hutt Branch, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Fourteen willing workers planted fifty trees to fill in gaps in last year's planting area, to replace losses in the windbreak on the western edge caused by drought and strong winds. Some canopy species were planted among the existing plantings. Earlier plantings are now giving good protection to the matai, maire and totara planted among them. The revegetated area looks attractively bushy and green from SH2.

Small patches of weeds were removed from the mature forest. Since Darryl Kee applied his weed control skills, the forest floor has been transformed. It is almost free of the infestations of invasive weeds that had

defied attempts at control by hand weeding. Regeneration of native seedlings has been good, despite the dry conditions.

Since the workbee, the fence on the SH2 frontage has been removed while the road is widened. This makes the small remnant vulnerable to damage – we look forward to the completion of the road works, and the rebuilding of the fence. No doubt we will have to do some planting in this area next season, to repair the bulldozer damage!

Participants: Gareth Cooper, Helen Druce, Dave Holey, Chris Horne, Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington, Janet McCallum, Cath Mathews, Sue Millar, Barbara Mitcalfe, Mick Parsons, Alan Sheppard. Glennis Sheppard, Darea Sherratt.

Sue Millar



Above: Recent plantings at the south end of Te Marua Bush.
Right: Totara trimmed by Transit NZ at the northeast corner of Te Marua Bush.
Photos: Allan Sheppard.



3 August 2003: Karori Wildlife Sanctuary

This trip had two purposes. The first was to botanise along the Te Mahanga Track between the Lower Reservoir and the Upper Dam, then along the Round the Lake Track on the east side of the Upper Reservoir. The second was to help with choosing sites along an interpreted trail to be sponsored by BotSoc. This will involve placing numbered posts near plants or groups of plants, the sites to be described in a pamphlet available to visitors at the Visitor Centre. We got the idea from the excellent post and pamphlet trail produced by the Department of Conservation for Mangaweka Scenic Reserve – the botanical notes were done by Colin Ogle.

As an aid to learning plant names, everyone was given a list of 140 native plants recorded in the Sanctuary, each with a number. We added several plants to the list, including big mingimingi, coastal tree daisy/*Olearia solandri*, a rata/*Metrosideros colensoi*, fireweed/*Senecio minimus*, and several native species planted as part of the restoration of the valley. Features of the day included several wheki ponga/*Dicksonia fibrosa*, big tree fuchsias, a large tree tutu, the ferns *Leptolepia novaezealandiae*, *Diplazium australe*, *Blechnum colensoi*, and *Hymenophyllum flexuosum*, several kaka, a saddleback/tieke and a North Island robin/toutouwai.

While the botanising continued apace, Raewyn Empson, Conservation Manager, and various BotSocers, marked individual plants and groups of plants which could be allocated numbered posts, and described in the proposed pamphlet. John Shorland took photographs of the plants to help with interpretation.

Participants: Trevor Anders, Graham Armstrong, Phyllis Armstrong, Diana Barnes, Rae Collins, Ken Drayton (1), Raewyn Empson (1), Councillor Andy Foster (2), Sue Freitag, Marjorie Gee, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Hilary Hunter, Brenda Johnston, Mark Kearney (1), Gordon Leary, Sheelagh Leary, Cathy Lythe, Barbara Mitcalfe, Mick Parsons, Logan Paul, Megan Payton, Merrin Pearse, Chris Perry, John Shorland, Sunita Singh, Anne Smith, Des Smith, Patsy White, Tony White. (1) = KWS staff; (2) = KWS trustee.

Chris Horne

6 September 2003: Wilf Mexted Reserve; Larsen Crescent Reserve; Redwood Bush.

The trip began at Wilf Mexted Reserve, near the top of Collins Avenue, Tawa, where deputy leader Richard Robertson welcomed the group, because my flight had been delayed. I caught up with them later, after they had botanised the northern slopes of the reserve. The 1.6 ha reserve is in a gully dominated by an impressive stand of tawa and kohekohe. Years of neglect, and lack of possum control, have resulted in a sparse understorey. Nevertheless, we discovered some more miro trees, and added several species to the plant list published in *Scenic Reserves of the Lower North Island* in 1986. They included wineberry, tawa (inadvertently left off the published list), *Coprosma propinqua*, *Griselinia lucida*, rewarewa, heketara, kowhai, *Metrosideros diffusa*, and *M. fulgens*, six species of ferns, and planted specimens of tarata and kohuhu.

After lunch at the top of Larsen Crescent, we botanised Larsen Crescent Reserve, a 0.5-ha regionally significant remnant with an impressive stand of matai and tawa, a mature totara, and a high diversity of species for its size. Barbara Mitcalfe said that in 1996 this forest was under threat from residential development. Twenty trees had already been felled before the Environment Court put a stop to further clearance. This controversy sparked interest among residents in the native bush areas in Tawa, and led to the formation of



Wheki ponga. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves Inc. Most of the land is now owned by Wellington City Council, and is managed as part of part of the adjoining Redwood Bush Key Native Ecosystem. BotSocers commended the work the Friends have been doing planting trees and upgrading the track, and the work WCC did building a boardwalk to protect the roots of a splendid matai. This tree, and a totara nearby on private land, are listed by WCC as “Notable Trees”, the only ones in Tawa. BotSocers commented on the efficacy of possum poisoning done by the Friends in the last two years in stimulating regeneration. Unfortunately, we also saw that some of the understorey has been damaged when youths searching for magic mushrooms have moved decaying logs. We added the orchid *Drymoanthus adversus* and nikau to the plant list.

We concluded the trip with a brief visit to the lower part of Redwood Bush, off Peterhouse Street. This gave BotSocers a taste for a future trip with time to do justice to this 10-ha forest on the southwestern slopes of Tawa. The prime conservation significance of the reserve is its tawa forest, uncommon around Wellington. We saw a small stand of kahikatea on an exposed ridgeline, and large twin pukatea, the biggest with a 4-m circumference, the largest tree in the reserve. Near the pukatea, we saw several nikau seedlings on the valley floor, presumably grown from seeds brought by kereru from the nikau stands in Porirua Scenic Reserve at Elsdon. The survival of the seedlings proves the success of the possum poisoning.

These three reserves are not well known outside a small group of locals. Part of the work of Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves is to make them more accessible for recreational and educational use, while ensuring that there is a suitable track network to minimise trampling.

Participants: Barbara Clark, Rae Collins, Gavin Dench, Barry Dent, Sue Freitag, Darryl Kee, Margaret Herbert, Richard Herbert, Chris Horne, Cath Mathews, Barbara Mitcalfe, Richard Robertson, Sunita Singh, Julia White, Joyce Wilson.

From report by Richard Herbert, Vice-President, Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves

Rata in the lower Hutt River valley

My interest in rata trees stems from the work of the Department of Conservation and Project Crimson, the destruction and potential destruction of many trees, and the potential for propagating rata (*Metrosideros robusta* and possibly *M. umbellata*), instead of pohutukawa (*M. excelsa*). I do not know of any plantings of rata in the valley at present. Unlike pohutukawa, northern rata is naturally occurring in the valley—you only have to walk in the nearby, protected, Wainuiomata catchment to realise this. I estimate that the population of northern rata in the lower Hutt River valley is only about 0.5% of the population of pohutukawa.

I have listed trees based on my observations, and information from other BotSoccers, notably Stan Butcher. The “journey” begins in Petone, and travels northeast up the Hutt River delta, but looking from side to side across the valley, to where it narrows at Taita Gorge.

The most southerly tree is at **174 Hutt Road**, our only example of southern rata/*M. umbellata*. There are two northern rata by the stream in **Percy Scenic Reserve**. In Alicetown, a smallish tree is at **38 Victoria St**. Across the river, on the berms in **Awamutu Grove (nos. 28 & 41)** are two largish trees, and where this street joins **Leighton Ave**, a large tree, actually two trees close together, gives one of the best flowering displays in the valley. Across and up **Waiwhetu Road**, outside **St Paul’s Anglican Church Hall**, is probably the largest tree in the valley, and the only (marked) protected tree in the HCC District Plan. Some years ago, another, smaller, tree was felled at this site to make room for building extensions. More recently I noticed another handsome specimen in the parsonage at the back, at **2 Guthrie St**. A fine young tree is in **Waiwhetu Rd, Fairfield**, actually at **1 Burnside St**. On the same side of the valley, in the **Birdwood Road** area, four or five trees become visible in the flowering season, in regenerating bush, across and behind **Mission St** and **Chanel Grove**, which are probably naturally occurring. Now, go back to **Hutt Intermediate School** to see a fine tree at the junction of **Kauri Street** (where there are kauri) and **Wilford Street**. Cross the school grounds and go into **Penrose St** where there is another fine specimen at **no. 27**. The roots of what was a fine young tree now lie buried under tar-seal in the New World Supermarket carpark. So the only tree now left in the CBD is in **Daly St**, and now aesthetically built around, much to the advantage of the refurbished building, rather than being felled, as was the danger some months ago. Several BotSoccers “made a point” with HCC about this time.



Northern rata. Photo: John Braggins.

Now cross the river to **Pharazyn St** to see fine trees at **nos. 14 and 16**, and a smaller one best viewed from **Williams Grove**, at the back. All these trees are seen to good advantage from Normandale Overbridge when flowering. Unfortunately, I am told that a fourth specimen near the overbridge was felled in recent times. A southern rata near the old fernery in **Jubilee Park** appears to have gone—sorry, Stan! There is a tree at **72 Kings Crescent**, opposite **Eastern Hutt School**. Now go up **Waterloo Rd** to see nice trees at **Chilton St James School** gate, at **no. 150**, at **no. 184** (opposite **St Bernard’s School**), then up and around into **Witako St** which has five struggling, but still viable, trees on the eastern berms. Then go across the railway line to see trees at **3 Duncan Tce**, and **167 Cambridge Tce, Epuni**. Now go across to **Park Road, Belmont** to see a nice young tree in the gully opposite **no. 10**. Cross Kennedy-Good Bridge to where a handsome young tree thrives at the junction of **Naenae Rd and Vogel St**. Cross the Wingate Ramp and at **nos. 11 and 4**, see well-established trees on the eastern and western sides respectively of **Oxford Tce** as it exits into High St. A little further north is a fine tree, sandwiched between pohutukawa, at **1169 High St**. This tree is interesting because it is of similar stature to its neighbours, and must have been planted at the same time. Incidentally, there are no rata trees in **Rata St** – I checked! A little further north there are seven fine trees at the top end of **Petherick St**, a recent discovery. Sandwiched between them is a *M. kermadecensis* which flowers in September. It is quite large, and must have been planted at the same time. Now go onto the lower **SH 58/Haywards Hill** where there is a fine specimen in a gully opposite, and just below, **Hugh Duncan St**.

I hope that this record is useful and interesting, especially

to those of you who will witness the November/December flowering season. 2002 was an excellent year – let’s hope 2003 will be also.

Dave Holey
6/7 Raroa Road,
Melling,
Lower Hutt.
Ph 566 3124

Conservation Information Centre

Government Buildings, Lambton Quay

Track and hut information • hut tickets • hunting permits •
Kapiti Island Nature Reserve visitor permits • conservation
publications

Mon–Fri 9 am–4.30 pm • Sat 10 am–3 pm • Sun closed
General enquiries tel: 04 472 7356



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

For more information, read **Northern Rata (*Metrosideros robusta*) in Wellington Conservancy – Current Status and Future Management**. Kate McKessar and John Sawyer. March 1999. 62 pp. Department of Conservation. (Ed.)

Tree lupins – central North Island

BotSocers returning from our summer camp in the Bay of Plenty were concerned to see tree lupins infesting the sides of SH1 along the Desert Road and south of Taihape.

We quote here part of a very helpful letter from Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy, Department of Conservation, in response to our letter of 11 March 2003:

“Lupin control is undertaken annually by Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy along the Desert Road where it passes through Tongariro National Park, and adjacent private land administered by the Rotoaira Forest Trust, as well as in riparian areas crossing the highway, and the western margin of Kaimanawa Forest Park. This work is all north of Tukino Road. It appears however that the worst infestations are now developing south of this point, beyond the national park and this conservancy’s boundary.

“We believe the real exacerbator for lupin is Transit NZ, by way of repeatedly introducing seed, with grit for ice management, and road metal. This is evidenced by our need to annually control lupin (and broom) on the road verge. Transit

NZ contract DOC to do this work, but only north of Tukino Road. We have successfully argued that use of a roadside spraying contractor is not appropriate through the national park, and do this control with DOC staff working on foot. This has been done since 1998 with a slight reduction in the amount of effort required, given the need to re-treat areas for seedlings. This regime is however halting most of the plant pests from reaching maturity and seeding.

“I am not aware of similar annual control occurring south of Tukino Road along the highway, or on adjacent NZ Defence land.

“Therefore, although we cannot lead or do any work south of Tukino Road, we are willing to advocate for more intensive annual treatment by the other agencies involved, as we are doing intensive treatment immediately to the north”

*Terry Slee
Programme Manager Biodiversity
For Turangi-Taupo Area Manager,
Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy*



Wellington Botanical Society Inc. – Membership Application

(For new members **NOT** for renewal of existing membership)

I wish to join the Society

My name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr Phone (.....) (h)

My address Phone (.....) (w)

..... Fax (.....)

I would like to receive my newsletters by e-mail as a PDF Please tick if appropriate.

My e-mail address @

Signature Date:..... / / 200...

The membership year is from 1 July to 30 June. Dues received after 1 May will be credited the following year.

Type of membership: Ordinary \$32. Joint \$26; Joint (Family) \$42; Student \$20. All reducible by \$5 if paid by 30 November.

We welcome donations to support research into NZ native plants and to the Jubilee Award Fund.

Please make your cheque payable to Wellington Botanical Society Inc, and send it with this form to:

Wellington Botanical Society Inc., PO Box 10-412, Wellington

My cheque is enclosed for	Ordinary membership	\$	
	Joint membership	\$	
	Student membership	\$	
	Donation	\$	
	TOTAL	\$	

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WELLINGTON BOTANICAL SOCIETY SUMMER CAMP 2003/4 REGISTRATION

Please complete the registration form below and send it, together with a deposit of \$150.00 as a cheque made out to Wellington Botanical Society Inc. to:

Sheelagh and Gordon Leary
PO Box 48 110
Silverstream
UPPER HUTT

Ph: (04) 527 7380
Email: GandSLeary@xtra.co.nz

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Address:

Phone: Fax:

Email:

Preferred Accommodation:

Venue 1: **Kokiri Lodge**, near Greymouth, 31 December 2003 - 6 January 2004 (6 nights)
Situated 8 km from Stillwater on the Maori Gully Rd (adjacent to Kokiri Railway Station)

I would like to sleep inside @ \$11:00 a night for nights, from to

I would like to camp in my own tent @ \$5:00 per night, for nights, from to

Venue 2: **Mataki Lodge**, 6–11 January 2004 (5 nights), Tutaki Valley, 33 km east of Murchison

I would like to sleep inside @ \$15:00 per night for nights, from to

I would like to camp in my own tent @ \$5:00 per night for nights, from to

Special Requirements: Please indicate any special food/health/other requirements.

TRANSPORT:

- I can provide transport for extra people from camp to trip sites for days.
- I have arranged my own transport with
- I would like transport from base camp to trip sites for days.
- I can provide shared transport to/from the Summer Camp for people.
- I do not have transport. I would like to share transport **to, from** the Summer Camp.

More details about the camp will be sent out later in the year e.g. maps/books/gear/etc, but can be supplied earlier if required.